

Message Text

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14

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4214

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: FATIGATI WINS ROUND THREE

REF: BUENOS AIRES 8211

1. FEDERAL POLICE INFORMED THE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE JANUARY 20 THAT THEY "DO NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY TECHNICAL MEANS TO VERIFY THE AUTHENTICITY OF A TAPED VOICE." THEREFORE, THEY CANNOT PROVE THAT IT IS FATIGATI'S VOICE ON THE TAPE OF THE FAMOUS COMODORO RIVADAVIS INTERVIEW (REFTEL). THE POLICE REPORT ADDED AN ANNEX EXPRESSING THE LEGAL OPINION THAT, IN ANY CASE, THE TAPE COULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED AS "CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE" (PRUEBA INDICIARIA) SINCE ARGENTINE LAW DOES NOT CONTEMPLATE THE USE OF TAPE RECORDED EVIDENCE IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

2. THE COMMITTEE WILL MEET JANUARY 22 TO DECIDE ITS NEXT MOVE. NO ONE KNOWS WHAT THAT MOVE MAY BE (PROBABLY NOT EVEN THE COMMITTEE ITSELF) BUT ONE SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL PROBABLY RECALL FATIGATI TO TESTIFY ABOUT OTHER ASPECTS OF HIS STEWARDSHIP OF THE CRUZADA. IN ADDITION, THE COMMITTEE MAY TRY AND ESTABLISH WHO IS NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ORGANIZATION'S AFFAIRS SINCE FATIGATI HAS RESIGNED AND MRS. PERON, THE CRUZADA'S PRESIDENT, IS ON A "LEAVE OF ABSENCE" FROM THAT POSITION. ONE PRELIMINARY INDICATION THAT THE COMMITTEE INTENDS TO DO

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SOMETHING IS THE FACT THAT ITS CHAIRMAN, DOMINGO LOPEZ,

TOLD NEWSMEN JANUARY 20 THAT HE FEELS THAT THE COMMITTEE
"NEEDS FOUR MORE MONTHS" TO COMPLETE ITS WORK. ITS
MANDATE IS DUE TO EXPIRE IN EARLY FEBRUARY.

3. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT GENERAL FATIGATI HAS
EFFECTIVELY STYMIED, FOR THE MOMENT, ONE AVENUE OF THE
INVESTIGATION. ALSO, IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT MRS.
PERON WILL REASSUME HER PRESIDENCY OF THE ORGANIZATION
WHILE IT IS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION. THEREFORE,
AS THE ELECTORAL PROCESS INTENSIFIES, THE INQUIRY
WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO MEANDER IN THE SEA OF
UNCERTAINTY AND CONFUSION THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED IT SO
FAR.
BEAL

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